

ARIZONA BUGBANE
(*Cimicifuga arizonica*)

STATUS: Species protected under a Conservation Agreement.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: Arizona bugbane is an herbaceous perennial plant which may grow to 1.8 meters (6 feet) in height. It has long-petioled leaves with the blades divided by three, and each segment is divided with ultimate segments toothed, jagged, or three-lobed. The flowering stalks are long, slender racemes of small white petal-less flowers that appear between July and August. The fruit is a follicle that splits open on one side as it dries. It is in the crowfoot and buttercup family (Ranunculaceae).

HABITAT: The species occurs within mixed conifer and high elevation riparian deciduous forests. It is found in areas of deep shade and moist soils with a high humus content, near perennial or intermittent streams or seeps between 1,606 to 2,515 m in elevation (5,300 to 8,300 ft). Arizona bugbane occurs in mesic habitats, typically along the bottoms and lower slopes of steep, narrow canyons, where the dense overstory often includes a combination of coniferous and deciduous tree species.

RANGE: Historic: Unknown but probably similar to the current distribution.

Current: Known only from central Arizona, within Coconino and Gila counties. All known populations occur within three National Forests; the Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Current and potential threats include herbivore/ungulate impacts, recreational impacts, mining, and natural and management influenced catastrophic events such as floods and fires. The species was primarily considered threatened due to activities, such as livestock grazing and timber harvest, that reduce canopy closure and destroy shaded areas that the species needs for survival.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: U.S. Forest Service.

NOTES: The three National Forests that contain all known populations of this species developed conservation strategies (Coconino and Kaibab National Forests in May 1995 and Tonto National Forest in February 1999) to protect the species. A Conservation Agreement between the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service was finalized on June 11, 1999. The Conservation Agreement is posted on the internet at <http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/DocumentsBySpecies/ArizonaBugbane/azbugbanefnl.pdf> Due to the general and specific conservation and protection measures provided in those documents, which are to be implemented by the land management agencies, the species was removed from candidate status on October 20, 2000 (65 FR 63044, 2000).